

## Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 H-02 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 /027 W

----- 130646 /66

O 142232Z DEC ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9179

UNCLAS MEXICO 15705

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJECT: PRISONER HUNGER STRIKE IN MEXICO CITY: SITREP 4:

REF: MEXICO 15600 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE DECEMBER 12 (SUNDAY) EDITION OF THE MEXICO CITY ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER CONTAINED REPORT THAT PRISONERS IN RECLUSORIO NORTE, RECLUSORIO ORIENTE AND SANTA MARTA PRISONS HAD CALLED OFF A TEN-DAY HUNGER STRIKE DECEMBER 11 BEGIN QUOTE AFTER BEING ASSURED BY US EMBASSY OFFICIALS THEIR DEMANDS TO BE SENT HOME WOULD BE DEALT WITH RAPIDLY END QUOTE. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO CHECK SOURCE OF STORY, WHICH SEEMS TO BE UNTRUE IN REGARD TO THE END OF THE STRIKE. THE ALLEGED EMBASSY ASSURANCES ARE DEFINITELY UNTRUE.

2. CONOFF VISITED SANTA MARTA DECEMBER 13 AND SPOKE WITH ALMOST ALL PRISONERS. MOST OF THOSE WHO WERE QUESTIONED INSISTED THAT THE HUNGER STRIKE WAS CONTINUING AND THAT THEY PERSONALLY WERE PARTICIPATING, ALTHOUGH MOST ALSO SAID THAT THEY WERE DRINKING JUICES AND WATER AND SOME SAID THAT THEY WERE EATING SMALL AMOUNTS OF SUGAR. ALMOST ALL SEEMED TO BE IN GOOD CONDITION INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE WHO, ACCORDING TO EARLIER TELCON WITH ANOTHER PRISONER, WAS ON THE VERGE OF HOSPITALIZATION. PRIMARY EXCEPTION WAS ONE PRISONER, MARTIN H. MATZ AKA ROBERT A. FISHER DID NOT LOOK WELL. HE HAS BEEN VERY DEPRESSED, HOWEVER, SINCE BEING RECENTLY INFORMED THAT HE WILL HAVE TO SERVE AN EXTRA SENTENCE BASED ON 1972 DRUG CONVICTION IN ADDITION TO HIS CONVICTION FOR FRAUD. HIS CONDITION WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PRISON DIRECTOR. PRISON OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT STRIKE IS NOT TAKING PLACE AND CLAIM THAT IF UNCLASSIFIED

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PRISONERS HAD BEEN ON STRIKE FOR MORE THAN A WEEK AS CLAIMED, SEVERAL WOULD ALREADY BE HOSPITALIZED. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR SITUATION AND WILL ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE VISIT TO PRISON BY EMBASSY NURSE DECEMBER 15 AND 16.

3. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING PARTICIPATION, IF ANY, IN HUNGER STRIKE AT THE OTHER THREE PRISONS WITHIN THE FEDERAL DISTRICT. NONETHELESS, CONOFF'S INFORMATION AS DECEMBER 10 WAS THAT PARTICIPATION AT ALL THREE PRISONS WAS MINIMAL.

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUNGER STRIKES, PENAL INSTITUTIONS, PRISONERS WELFARE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MEXICO 15600  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** schwenja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by schwenja>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> srp 970930  
**Subject:** PRISONER HUNGER STRIKE IN MEXICO CITY: SITREP 4  
**TAGS:** CASC, MX  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006